

REMARKS

The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

35 USC §103 Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato (US 6,266,085) in view of Takemura (US 6,657,658).

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Takemura and further in view of Shibata (US 5,689,300).

Claims 5-7, 12, 13, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Takemura and further in view of Sarbadhikari (US 5,477,264).

The present invention is a stand-alone camera capable of cropping images based on selecting a portion of an image displayed on the screen. The portion of the images selected is based upon placing two vertical lines and two horizontal lines on the screen to form a rectangle. The rectangle formed is smaller than the image on the screen and can be moved throughout the screen.

Kato describes a camera control device suitable for use in a videoconferencing setting in which the camera panning, tilting and zooming is controlled based upon two images displayed on a screen. Specifically, a first image is the maximum image visible based on maximum wide angle zoom capable by the camera. The second image is a rectangular portion of the first image. The camera is able to move based on the position of the second image.

Takemura describes a method and system for image processing in which trimming of an image is possible. An image is displayed on a monitor (21). The cursor (22) is moved to desired position (P1) and the shutter button is pushed fixing the desired position (P1). The cursor (22) is then moved to desired position (P2) and the shutter button is pushed fixing the desired position (P2). A desired area (25) is thereby formed which is smaller than the image on the screen.

The Takemura reference discloses an image processing apparatus ① that sets a region to be trimmed by setting the upper left point and the lower right point. The size, shape, and position on the frame are defined by just setting the upper left point and the lower right point. The Takemura reference further discloses an image processing apparatus ② that sets the size and the position on the frame of a region having a predetermined shape (Fig. 9).

In contrast, the invention of the subject application has the size and shape set by designating the upper left point and the lower right point, and then designating separately the position on the frame. Therefore, the image processing apparatus differs from Takemura's image processing apparatuses of ① and ②.

Takemura Reference:

- ①: The size, shape, and position on the frame are set at one time.
- ②: The size and the position on the frame are set individually. Shape modification is disallowed.

Present Invention: The size and shape are set, and then the position on the frame is set.

The Takemura reference is directed to set a region to be trimmed with respect to one image, and differs from the invention of the present application directed to synthesizing a still image and a motion picture.

The invention of the present application is characterized in that the position on the frame is set after setting the size and shape. The concept of combining the Kato reference with the image processing apparatus ① of the Takemura reference that will have the size, shape, and position on the frame defined to disallow shifting by just setting the upper left point and the lower right point seems to be a matter of hindsight. Furthermore, the apparatus of the present invention cannot be achieved by combining the image processing apparatus ② of the Takemura reference that cannot have the shape modified with the Kato reference that cannot have the shape modified.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-13, 20 and 21 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/267,398
Reply to OA dated February 8, 2005

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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